



NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Usha Kilich

Northchurch Parish Council

PO Box 2603

Kings Langley

WD4 4EJ

Tel.07543493002

email : clerk@northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.northchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTHCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

27th November 2023 at 7.00 pm at St Mary's Parish Room

Northchurch HP4 3QW

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michela Capozzi	Chair
Mark Somervail	Vice Chair
Neil Pocock	
Parul Dix	

ALSO PRESENT:

Officer	Mrs U Kilich Parish Clerk
County Councillor	Mr T Douris
Members of the public:	Two

58/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the apologies of absence from Cllr Godfrey, Cllr Pringle, and Cllr Abercromby for the reasons stated in the email. Unanimously agreed.

59/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda

Cllr Pocock and Cllr Dix declared an interest in item 68/23 f, item will be deferred to the Full Council Meeting on 8th January 2023

60/23 Public Participation is allowed 15 minutes

- A member reported that the Environmental Agency has not been in contact regarding the clearing of River Bulbourne, Cllr Capozzi will follow up.
- The parking issue on Mandelyns is still a problem where commercial vehicles are continuously parked on the road. It was suggested to obtain a report from Cllr Pringle on her communication with the police on the matter.

61/23 MINUTES

- a. To approve the minutes of
 - i. To approve Full Council Minutes from 16th October 2023
 - ii. To approve EOM Minutes from 6th November 2023Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock that the Minutes of 16th October 2023, as a correct record and, as such, be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock that the Minutes of EOM on 6th November 2023 as a correct record and, as such, be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Matters arising from previous meetings that are not included as agenda items below
 - a. Woodland TPO on New Road as discussed on 16th October 2023. It was reported that the TPO on the Woodland has been in place since November 2006.

62/23 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

County Councillor Douris reported on the following:

- a. Uber bus will be launching around 11th December 2023, Northchurch has been omitted from the list in an error, and Cllr Douris has been flagged this.
- b. Mandelyns: in regards to double yellow lines, Cllr Douris has been in talks with the Highways Manager to see how the current double yellow lines function, and the situation will be assessed in 12 months before implementing any changes.
- c. 20 mph has not been not yet been implemented. Cllr Douris will follow this up.

63/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Cllr Capozzi to inform members that the Castle Water demands will be received on a monthly basis in arrears.
- b. Cllr Capozzi to inform members that an attempt was made to withdraw funds from NS&I by an individual, this was not processed due to the signatures required for withdrawal did not match.
- c. New Consultation on the Dacorum Local Plan (2024-2040) – REVISED STRATEGY FOR GROWTH. For more information please [click here](#)
- d. School Admissions Consultation 2025/26 - Neighbouring LAs, District & Borough Councils and Diocesan Representatives. For more information, please [click here](#)
- e. Agenda for Dacorum Environmental Forum Meeting on Thursday, Nov 16th, 2023. For more information, please [click here](#)
- f. Berkhamsted Citizens Association Newsletter. For more information, please [click here](#)
- g. Hertfordshire Growth Board Visions & Missions Survey Launch. For more information, please [click here](#)

64/23 CLERKS REPORT

- a. DBC Members News (Council members only) – Circulated to Councillors for information
- b. A request made by a parishioner to install a bench on the Common in memory of her late mother – the request is for the memorial bench Common, the Clerk will liaise with the parishioner to state the request has to be made to the landowner.

65/23 ROAD SAFETY

- a. To update on the crossing by the recreation ground and update the webpage
Cllr Capozzi reported that there is nothing to report on the crossing by the recreation ground, this subject needs more planning and discussions. Cllr Douris will chase this up with the relevant department.

66/23 OPEN SPACE

- a. Recreation Ground update
Cllr Capozzi reported that the mole problem has been an issue of recent, while NPC have paid twice for the treatment, it was suggested that the Cricket Club may be able to pay for the next visit for the mole treatment. The message has been relayed to the Cricket Club.

67/23 ALLOTMENT

- a. Cllr Capozzi to update on works at the Allotments – the road on the left side of the plot has been washed away, Cllr Capozzi will liaise with Herts Highways allotment has been washed away, Cllr Capozzi will contact Herts Highways (not via Cllr Douris) to see what can be done, and also obtain a quote from a contractor for the necessary work.
- b. One of the plots remains to be an issue in terms of rubbish left behind, the allotment holder has been notified to tidy up or notice to quit will be served. There has been no communication with the allotment holder for plots 77 & 78, Cllr Capozzi since early October, a final letter will be sent.
- c. Deer fence has been completed; however, it was noted that allotment holders have started to leave items against the fence, any damage caused to the fence, allotment holders will be liable.
- d. Cllr Dix suggested that allotment holders should be encouraged to start with half a plot, this will allow NPC to monitor their input before a full allotment can be offered. Cllr Dix also mentioned that there should be help available for those who are struggling to manage their allotment. Both SRT and NAA offer this.
- e. Cllr Douris reported that Herts Highways Flood Engineer is currently working on a proposal to install a new double drain on New Road before the allotment. This is at an early stage and will be subject to funding available.
- f. Cllr Capozzi informed members that with the new installation of the gate on the upper site, whether the height restriction is still needed. This may be something that can be fixed by Willows Forge.

68/23 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

- a. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the YTD Summary for October 2023
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the YTD Summary for October 2023. Unanimously agreed.
- b. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the Precept at £44k for 2024/25, this being a 14.8% increase
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve the Precept at £44k, this being a 14.8%. Unanimously agreed.
- c. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the Budget for 2024/25
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the Budget for 2024/25. Unanimously agreed.
- d. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve withdrawal from NS&I for £40k
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to withdraw £40k from NS&I to

transfer to Unity Trust Current Account. Unanimously agreed.

- e. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the EMR for 2023/24
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the EMR for 2023/24.
Unanimously agreed.
- f. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the grant application to NUC for the sum of £600
Cllr Capozzi proposed to defer the item to the January 2024 Full Council meeting due to insufficient members being present to vote for the proposal.
- g. Cllr Capozzi proposes to temporarily lease the area of land on the Upper Allotment previously known as ‘Sunnyside Nurseries’ to Sunnyside Rural Trust at the same rent until 31st March 2024.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail, to temporarily let SRT at the same rent until 31st March 2024. Unanimously agreed.
- h. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept the new 10-year lease with Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited (“Cornerstone”) and proposed Heads of Terms
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to accept the new 10-year lease with Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd. Unanimously agreed.
- i. Cllr Capozzi proposes to engage with the solicitor proposed by Landreeve surveyor whose costs will be covered by Cornerstone.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to engage with solicitors proposed by Landreeve Surveyor, the costs will be covered by Cornerstone. Unanimously agreed.
- j. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve an additional £1500 to replace the bent gate post at the Upper Allotment which could not be straightened.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Somervail to approve an additional £1500 for the allotment gate. Unanimously agreed.
- k. Cllr Capozzi proposes to approve the grant application for the Friends of St Mary’s School for £2025.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to amend the motion to Northchurch St Mary’s School Association.

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to approve the grant application made by Northchurch Friends of St Mary’s School for £2025. Unanimously agreed.
- l. Cllr Capozzi proposes to accept a 4% increase in the Clerk's salary for 2023/24 as per NALC.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Capozzi, seconded by Cllr Pocock to accept the 4% pay increase as per NALC which will be backdated from 6th April 2023. Unanimously agreed.

69/23 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. To receive a quote for the broken benches
- b. NUC £600 grant application to approve

70/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 8th January 2024 at 7.00 pm St Mary’s Parish Room Northchurch HP4 3QW